

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

66620

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:JSWOLF

APPROVED BY:LMATTESON

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O 201005Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 062814

TOSEC 806

FOL REPEAT SAIGON 3187 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC JEC
PARIS BIENHOA CAN THO DANANG NHATRANG MAR 20, 1975

QUOTE

UNCLAS SAIGON 3187

DEPT PASS IMMEDIATE IBS/NCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR SITUATION

1. PRES THIEU GAVE THE FOLLOWING RADIO ADDRESS AT 1:00 P.M.
LOCAL TIME MAR 20.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR COMPATRIOTS: SINCE 4 MAR 1975, THE NORTH
VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONCENTRATED ALL OF THEIR FORCES TO
LAUNCH A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE RVN THROUGHOUT THE
TERRITORIES OF THE FOUR MILITARY REGIONS.

IN FOLLOWING THE WAR SITUATION OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS THE
COMPATRIOTS HAVE REALIZED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS
HAVE CUT OFF THE TWO VITAL HIGHWAYS 19 AND 21 LINKING THE COASTAL
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AREAS WITH THE (?CENTRAL HIGHLANDS), OVERRUN BAN ME THUOTCITY,

AND EXERTED PRESSURE ON A NUMBER OF OTHER PROVINCES, SUCH AS THUA THIEN, QUANG NAM, AND QUANG TIN IN MR-1, AND TAY NINH AND LONG KHANH IN MR-3, WHILE INTENSIFYING THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST VILLAGES, HAMLETS AND POSTS AND SABOTAGING COMMUNICATIONS LINES IN MR-4.

MOST RECENTLY, ON 19 MAR, NORTH VIETNAMESE INFANTRYMEN AND TANKS CROSSED THE THACH HAN RIVER IN FORCE AND LAUNCHED LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS AGAINST THE OLD CITADEL (AS HEARD) AND OUR QUANG TRI PROVINCIAL CAPITAL IN HAI LANG, WHILE VIGOROUSLY SHELLING HUE CITY.

IN THIS WAVE OF THE GENERAL OFFENSIVE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ONLY DEPLOYED 14 INFANTRY DIVISIONS ALREADY ON HAND ON RVN TERRITORY, BUT IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THEY HAVE ALSO INFILTRATED FIVE ADDITIONAL DIVISIONS INTO OUR TERRITORY. THESE HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM EIGHT GENERAL RESERVE DIVISIONS IN NORTH VIETNAM.

WITH THESE 19 DIVISIONS, IN COORDINATION WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TANKS AND ARTILLERY PIECES THAT HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED ON A LARGE-SCALE BASIS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CREATED AN OBVIOUS SUPERIORITY IN THE BALANCE OF FORCES AND FIREPOWER ON A FEW FRONTS.

OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS, ON VARIOUS BATTLEFIELDS IN HEAVILY POPULATED AREAS, OUR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE, IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT LIMITED MILITARY AID, HAVE HEROICALLY EXTERMINATED THE ENEMY AND SUCCESSFULLY CHECKED HIS ADVANCE. IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS WHERE WE HAVE HAD TO FIGHT THE ENEMY ON A ONE TO FOUR BASIS, OUR ARVN TROOPS HAD TO REDEPLOY THEIR FORCES SO AS TO PRESERVE THEIR STRENGTH AND CREATE CONDITIONS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE COMBAT IN THE PRESENT STAGE. THEREFORE, OUR ARMED FORCES DO NOT DEFEND KON Tum AND PLEIKU CITIES.

ON OTHER BATTLEFIELDS FROM THUA THIEN TO THE COASTAL AREAS IN MILITARY REGION II AND MILITARY REGIONS III AND IV, WE ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND OUR TERRITORY UNTIL THE END. REPORTS ABOUT THE ABANDONMENT OF THUA THIEN, DALAT AND A NUMBER OF OTHER LOCALITIES ARE NOTHING BUT COMPLETELY FALSE, GROUNDLESS

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RUMORS AIMED AT SOWING CONFUSION AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THEREFORE, I CALL ON OUR COMPATRIOTS TO REMAIN CALM AND TO FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WITH OUR CLEAR-CUT ANTI-COMMUNIST WILL, OUR SPIRIT OF PROMOTING SOLIDARITY AND MAKING SACRIFICES IN THE STRUGGLE OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE AND WITH THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REAR BASE AND THE FRONTLINE, WE WILL NEVER ALLOW THE AGGRESSOR COMMUNISTS TO TAKE OVER THIS BELOVED

FREE SOUTH.

I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EMERGENCY
MEASURES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SITUATION AND I AM
CONSIDERING NEW MEASURES WHICH WE WILL ADOPT SUBSEQUENTLY.

I WILL HAVE MORE OCCASIONS TO TALK TO THE COMPATRIOTS IN THE
DAYS AHEAD.

I CONVEY TO YOU ALL MY CORDIAL REGARDS. END TEXT.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC 806, SPEECHES, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE062814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:JSWOLF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750097-0393
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750331/aaaabbyf.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2004 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU ADDRESSES NATION ON WAR SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, VS, VN, (NGUYEN VAN THIEU)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006